Claims

Cancel Claims 1-20

Claim 21 (Previously Amended) A method for the controlled processing of classified file types wherein a first file of a first classified file type is processed into a second file of a second classified file type by a plurality of users with access to a route directed workflow system in a computer network comprising the steps of:

defining a set of classified file types including a first classified file type and a second classified file type;

dividing the process into a first classified file type attachment step, a first classified file type download step, a step that processes a first classified file type into a second classified file type, a second classified file type attachment step, and a second classified file type download step;

defining route steps that specify attachment or download of a file of a specified classified file type;

producing a route with a first route step that specifies attachment of a first file with the first classified file type by a first user, followed by a second route step that specifies the download of the first file with the first classified file type by a second user, followed by a third route step that specifies the attachment of a second file with a second classified file type by the second user, followed by a fourth route step that specifies the download of the second file with the second classified file type by a third user;

defining a first file of the first classified file type;

executing the route in a workflow system where the workflow system in response to a route step presents to the user a screen to attach or download a file of the classified file type as specified by the route step;

such that at the first route step, the first user attaches the first file of the first classified file type;

at the second route step, the second user downloads the first file, processes the first file into a second file of the second classified file type, and at the third route step, attaches the second file; and

at the fourth route step, the third user downloads the second file of the second classified file type.

Claim 22 (Previously Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein a third file has a parent-child relationship with a fourth file and the file attachment attaches the third and fourth files with a parent-child relationship.

Claim 23 (Previously Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein a fifth file has the same file name as a sixth file and the files are attached and distinguishable.

Claim 24 (Previously Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the route has a loop and the files attached in each iteration of the loop are distinguishable.

Claim 25 (Cancel) The method of claim 21, wherein the route provides a conditional branch capability at a route step and the user at the route step indicates the branch choice for the next route step,

Claim 26 (Previously Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the screen at a route step provides a file download based on the classified file type.

Claim 27 (Previously Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein a seventh file is related to an eighth file in a parent-child relationship and the file download downloads the seventh and eighth files in a parent-child relationship.

Claim 28 (Presently Amended) A classified file workflow system connected to a network with addressed users comprising:

means to define a set of file classifications;

means to designate a file with a file classification;

means to access a route, a sequence of steps where each step provides a user address in the computer network, a file classification, and a file upload or download indicator;

means to access a file storage system to store or retrieve a file;

means for directing a step to the user address in the step and, based on the file upload or download indicator, provide the user means to upload or download a file with the file classification by accessing the file system;

means for comparing the step with the route to determine the next step with a next user address;

means for sending the next step to the next user address in the route;

such that the classified file workflow system processes the route and the users at the user addresses in the route steps upload or download classified files with the file classifications as designated in each route step in the sequence of the steps in the route.

Claim 29 (Previously Amended) The classified file workflow system of claim 28, wherein the files can be designated as a parent-child relationship and attached in the parent-child relationship.

Claim 30 (Previously Amended) The classified file workflow system of claim 28, wherein the files attached in a parent-child relationship can be downloaded in a parent-child relationship.

Claim 31 (Previously Amended) The classified file workflow system of claim 28, wherein a first file is attached and a second file with the same name is attached and the two files are distinguishable.

Claim 32 (Previously Amended) The classified file workflow system of claim 28, wherein the route has a loop and the files attached in each iteration of the loop are distinguishable.

Claim 33 (Cancel) The classified file workflow system of claim 28, wherein the route provides a conditional branch at a route step and the user indicates the branch choice for the next step in the route.

Claim 34 (Cancel) The classified file workflow system of claim 28, wherein the route provides a fork branch at a route step such that two parallel sub-routes are started.

Claim 35 (Previously Amended) The classified file workflow system of claim 28, wherein the screen at a route step provides a means to download an attached file based on its classification.

Claim 36 (Previously Amended) A classified file route step for a classified workflow system connected to a network with addressable users providing:

a classified file workflow system means with access to

a route means, a sequence of route steps including a classified file route step where each route step provides a user address in the computer network and the classified file route step further provides a file classification and a file upload or download function; and

a file storage system means providing the classified workflow system means the functions to store or retrieve a file for upload or download in response to the user processing the classified file route step;

such that the classified workflow system provides for the user at the user address a classified file route step that directs the upload or download of a file matching the file classification provided by the route step.

Claim 37 (Previously Amended) The classified file route step of claim 36, wherein the classified file route step provides a file upload which uploads files with a parent-child relationship.

Claim 38 (Previously Amended) The classified file route step of claim 36, wherein the classified file route step provides means to download files uploaded with a parent-child relationship using the parent-child relationship.

Claim 39 (Cancel) The classified file route step of claim 36, wherein the classified file route step provides a conditional branch means for the user to indicate the branch choice for the next route step.

Claim 40 (Previously Amended) The classified file route step of claim 36, wherein the classified file route step distinguishes files with the same file name that were uploaded at different steps in the route.